

PUB-NO: **GB002167592A**

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: **GB 2167592 A**

TITLE: **Method and equipment for juxtaposing handed articles**

PUBN-DATE: **May 29, 1986**

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APPL-NO: **GB08527889**

APPL-DATE: **November 12, 1985**

PRIORITY-DATA: **GB08428674A (November 13, 1984)**

INT-CL (IPC): **G09B019/00, A41D019/00 , A43B003/30 , G09F003/00**

EUR-CL (EPC): **G09B019/00**

US-CL-CURRENT: **36/112**

ABSTRACT:

Children can see which way a picture "points" before they are old enough to read or interpret legends like "L" and "R". Children are less able to distinguish, by shape alone, which shoe belongs to which foot, and marking them "left" and "right" will not help. Accordingly, footwear (12) (13), or any other handed articles such as gloves or cutlery, is provided with devices (10) (11) which can be interpreted by the non-literate. By telling the child that the "dogs" (10) (11) like to face one another and do not like to be back-to-back, putting on shoes becomes a game and the child becomes self-sufficient in this respect at an early age. Unless provided during manufacture of the foot-wear (12) (13), the devices (10) (11) may be on labels or badges subsequently affixed, as by adhesive or by sewing. Pairs of self-adhesive labels can be provided on a peel-off backing sheet.

<IMAGE>

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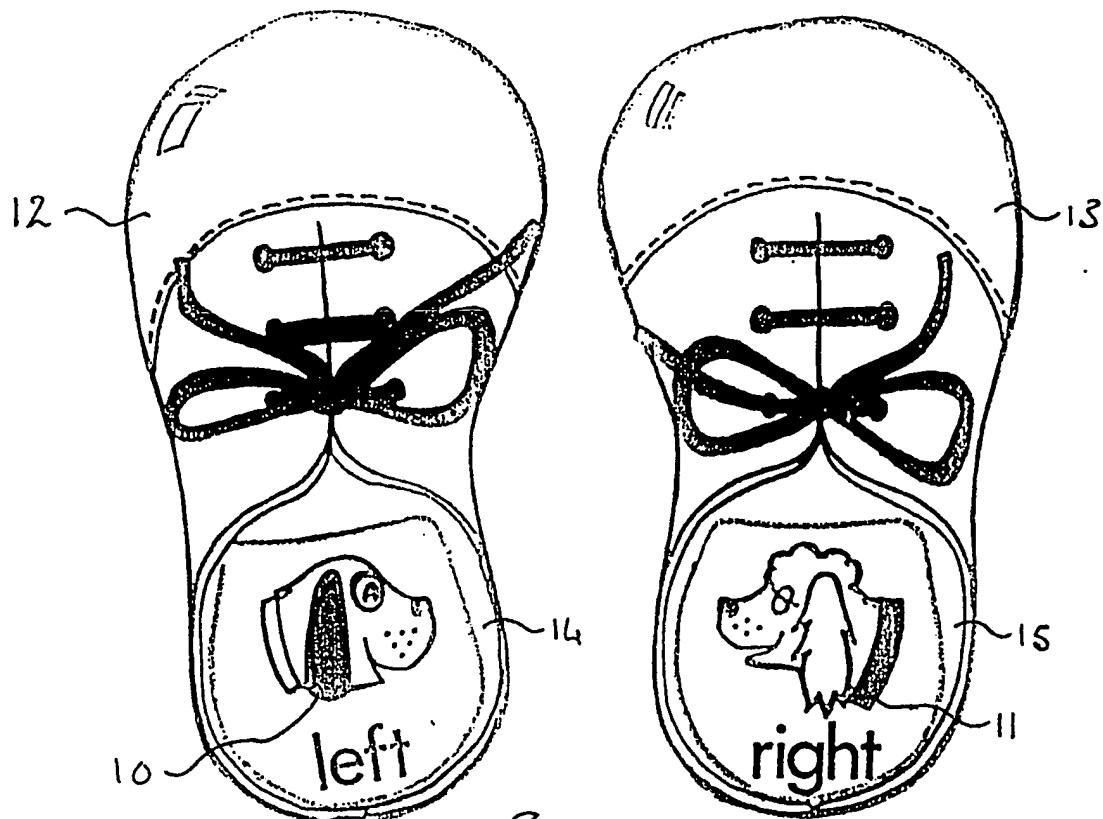


FIG.1

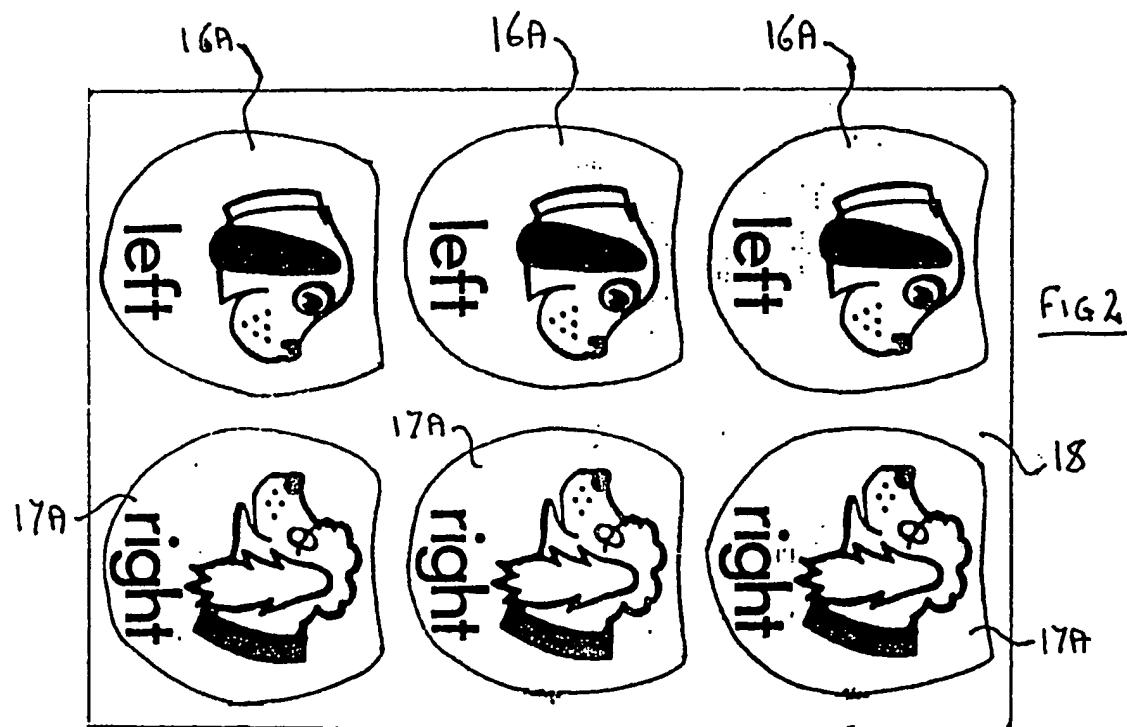


FIG.2

SPECIFICATON

Method and equipment for juxtaposing handed articles

5 This invention relates to a method and equipment for facilitating the correct juxtaposition of handed articles, and more particularly for identifying the correct relationship to one another and to the user of
 10 "left-" and "right-handed" articles without requiring the user to be either literate or numerate.

In accordance with the invention there is provided a method of facilitating the correct juxtaposition of handed articles by non-literate persons, such as
 15 minors, which comprises applying to each article of a handed pair a respective, asymmetric device not consisting of one or more literary symbols but having a perceivable direction or orientation on the article such that the relationship of the devices will
 20 indicate the correct juxtaposition of the articles.

The direction or orientation of each device will usually be determinable by an asymmetric shape which "points" to the appropriate side of the respective article. For convenience or economy the
 25 two devices may be "mirror images" of one another, but need not be. The shape of each device may be wholly or partly defined by raised (relief) or hollowed (intaglio) areas applied by manufacturing techniques such as moulding, engraving, stamping
 30 or "dimension welding", e.g. on slippers. It will be advantageous, e.g. to the blind or poorly sighted, if the shape of each device is detectable by touch as well as or instead of by sight.

Each device may comprise an asymmetric pictorial
 35 image, which may be abstract or representational. In the latter case, especially for the benefit of children, it is preferred that the image is a profile view of a human or animal head which clearly "faces" one way only. The image may be applied to each item
 40 during manufacture, for example it may be knitted into a glove or moulded into or printed onto a footwear insole, or it may be applied subsequent to manufacture of the items, e.g. by stamping or an engraving process. Alternatively, suitable pairs of
 45 labels, badges or the like, bearing the images may be sold separately from the items to be applied by the purchaser.

Preferred embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example of non-limitative
 50 example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a view from above of a pair of child's shoes with images applied to the heel parts of the insoles according to the invention, and
 55 Figure 2 illustrates a backing sheet bearing pairs of labels suitable for use in carrying out the invention.

For a small child it is less easy to tell simply from the shape of the shoe, or other item of footwear, which foot it belongs to. Figure 1 illustrates a pair of
 60 child's shoes and their difference in shape is not readily discernable. Within a certain age range children are quite intelligent enough to put on their own footwear, but the similarity of the two items, at least in external appearance, gives rise to mistakes.

65 Simply marking the shoe "left" or "right" is not

and "Right" or "L" and "R" does not immediately help a child which cannot yet read or is not yet fully familiar with the alphabet. Long before this, however, children recognise pictures and can tell which

70 "way round" the image is. In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figure 1, therefore, pictures 10 and 11 comprising the heads, in profile view, of creatures likely to appeal to children are applied to the items of footwear 12 and 13 in an area where
 75 they will be in plain sight before the shoe is put on, i.e. in the heel areas 14 and 15 of the insoles. The "head" 10 applied to the left shoe 12 "faces" to the right of the shoe, and the "head" 11 applied to the right shoe 13 "faces" to the left of the shoe, so that
 80 when the shoes are correctly placed side-by-side, as shown, the "heads" 10 and 11 face one another, but if they are incorrectly placed the "heads" 10 and 11 will be back-to-back. This gives an immediate indication to the child which way round to place the shoes
 85 12 and 13 before putting them on. By telling the child that the creatures depicted like to look at one another and do not like to have their backs to one another the exercise is converted into the sort of game which appeals to children and will provide an incentive to
 90 the child to learn quickly to be self-sufficient in putting on its own footwear.

For use on connection with footwear which does not have the images 10 and 11 as sold, pairs of self-adhesive labels 16A, 17A are provided on a
 95 suitable backing sheet 18, which may conveniently have instructions for use (not shown) printed on it. As is known *per se* the backing sheet 18 may be waxed so that the self-adhesive labels 16A, 17A can be peeled off easily without damage or losing

100 adhesive. A given backing sheet 18 may have only two labels 16A, 17A on it, or several pairs of labels 16A, 17A may be provided on a common backing sheet, as shown, so that each pair of labels can be used for a different pair of shoes, boots, slippers, 105 gloves or any other pair of handed articles. As shown, the labels 16A, 17A are generally shield-shaped to be accommodated within the heel areas of the insoles. Of course, it will be up to the (presumably adult) purchaser to position the labels 16A, 17A
 110 correctly in the footwear for the child's use, and it is partly for the benefit of such an adult that the (inessential) words "left" and "right" are included. Another reason for including them is so that the child learns to read them and to distinguish "left" 115 and "right" with the aid of the pictures.

As alternative to adhesive labels, sew-on or iron-on labels or badges may be provided for such "handed" articles as gloves.

Although primarily intended to help children to be
 120 self-sufficient, thus helping those in charge of them, incidentally providing the child with pleasure and amusement, the invention is not limited to the marking of such "handed" pairs of articles as shoes, gloves and cutlery intended for children. The blind
 125 may be assisted by a tangible, non-alphabetical device and illiterates, the mentally sub-normal or the senile may be assisted by markings (visual or otherwise) more easily distinguished and understood than the conventional written directives.